

Landscape Architect

Also known as: Landscape designer.

Other organisations you can work for:

Engineering/civil engineering firms, architects, consultancies.

What do they do?

Councils are crucial to what a city, town or landscape look like. While they don't construct buildings, they are responsible for the 'bits in between', the roads, the open spaces and parks that are built.

In towns and cities, streets, urban parks, public squares, playgrounds all need the meeting of landscape with the built environment to be intelligently designed.

A landscape architect designs the space! That's not just the planting scheme, but the creation of a space that meets peoples needs.

They bring together other professionals, those creating the buildings and the highways, and the community who use them.

And in the countryside there are different challenges!

How does a landscape work when there are many demands, those from windfarms, new developments and roads? All these need to be considered and assessed.

This is a job where creativity and art are supported by technical knowledge and skills, and which shapes the environment you live in! Working in teams, and across the community the role could be in the office designing, or out meeting and working with other professional and the community.

Qualifications

Degree in relevant subject.

Environmental Health Officer (EHO)

Also known as: Environmental Health Practitioner, Port Health Officer, Public Protection Officer

Other organisations you can work for:

Local government, the private sector, the armed forces, central government agencies such as Public Health England, the NHS, the Health & Safety Executive, the Food Standards Agency and the Environment Agency.

What do they do?

EHO's help to ensure that all the social and physical environments in which we work, eat, live and play are safe, focusing on food safety, workplace health and safety, housing standards, pollution and environmental protection, animal health and welfare, and public health.

Sustainability is paramount in all of this, from sustainable food to sustainable waste management. On a practical level, EHO's working to regulate air pollution and manage air quality are helping combat climate change. Those working in contaminated land are supporting sustainable land use, by securing the remediation of brownfield sites so that they can be developed once again.

If you are interested in combining your skills and experience with the law, to protect public health and the environment by applying a range of interventions to everyday life, then a career in environmental health could be for you.

Qualifications— a BSc(Hons) or MSc in Environmental Health. These courses are accredited by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, and entry will require a science based A Level. If you want to specialise in one area of environmental health, such as food safety or environmental protection, there are many other routes in.

Sustainability Officer

Also known as: Climate Change Officer, Sustainability/Environmental Consultant.

Other organisations you can work for: Environmental consultancies, engineering consultancies, large companies (most large companies have a 'sustainability' officer of some sort)

What do they do?

Work in this area is varied. An officers role will be to ensure the organisation is working towards its goals of sustainability including how it is responding to the challenges of climate change.

The council has many roles that impact on sustainability, and many of those delivering these services need support and advice to deliver them in a sustainable way.

Officers create strategies e.g. Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy, and then assist in delivering them.

Officers have to work with a wide range of other officers, from teams managing all aspect of environmental, social and business impact, from energy, waste and planning, to business support and procurement.

They also work with the community, schools and partner organisations, delivering public events.

The role requires technical ability to handle and interpret reports and data.

Qualifications

Degree, MSc in a Science or environmental science/management. Experience in environmental volunteering sector.

Ecologist

Also known as: Biodiversity Officer, Nature Conservation Officer

Other organisations you can work for:

Nature conservation charities (such as the Wildlife Trusts, RSPB, Woodland Trust) and private ecological consultancies (Middlemarch, SLR, Arup etc.)

What do they do?

An ecologist studies nature and the organisms within. A key part of the role is encouraging people to learn about wildlife and explaining why it is so important that it is protected for the future. They get out into green spaces assisting in creating habitats, surveying wildlife and assessing the impacts of development.

The council has a legal duty to consider biodiversity when exercising its functions. An ecologists role is to advise and make sure that this happens. This is through policy planning, development management, advising on protected species legislation but also in the management of council land especially Local Nature Reserves and parks.

Qualifications

Degree required, including geography, environmental science, ecology, conservation management, biology. Voluntary work also beneficial – this could be done during degree studies or afterwards in full-time placements.

Parks & Open Spaces Officer

Also known as: Greenspace Officer, Parks Management Officer, Horticultural Officer)

Other organisations you can work for:

Charity organisations that work on private land e.g. The Wildlife Trust, Groundwork, National Trust

What do they do?

The parks team in Solihull are involved in the management and development of the parks and open spaces across the Borough. There are approx. 1800 acres of land, including 18 principal parks, 32 play areas, 15 allotment sites and numerous football pitches, tennis courts, skate parks, basketball courts, alongside lakes, rivers and woodlands which require maintaining and improving.

Work can include working with the grounds maintenance contractors, inspecting parks, working with community groups, schools and local organisations to develop new facilities, organising for repairs to be made to damaged play equipment, working on projects to improve biodiversity, managing the rental and bookings for allotments, football pitches and cycle track, designing new floral displays and responding to customer enquiries.

Qualifications or skills; Degrees in relevant subjects such as Environmental Conservation/Science, Horticulture and/or Geography, Apprenticeships– e.g. grounds maintenance, volunteer experience.

Home Energy Officer

Also known as : Energy Adviser, Home Energy Efficiency/Conservation Officer

Other organisations with similar roles: Energy charities or community organisations such as Act On Energy, etc.

What do they do?: A large part of the role is developing partnerships and projects to support residents to reduce their energy use, from those who are fuel poor to those renovating their own homes. The role is about increasing the comfort of people in their homes and working with partners this is achieved by making heating more affordable through lowering fuel costs, increasing the energy efficiency of homes, income maximisation and looking for funding to support projects such as solid wall insulation and installation of renewables.

A Home Energy Officer looks at opportunities to work with partner organisations and lever in external funding to make energy projects financially viable.

Qualifications: Degree/Diploma in a related subject. City and Guilds Energy Efficiency certification.

Professional qualifications in specific areas including: Housing, Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS), Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) rating training. Green Deal assessor

Education for Sustainable Development Officer

Also known as: Environmental Education Officer, ESD Officer

Other organisations: range of non-governmental organisations /charities such as Wildlife Trusts, outdoor/ environmental education centres.

What do they do?

Councils support the delivery of environmental education in schools through programmes such as Eco-Schools. They support teachers to embed sustainability into the curriculum in many ways - from providing teacher training and advice to delivering hands on practical activities with children.

The role an ESD Officer includes talking to classes about energy use at school, doing a creative workshop demonstrating how Fairtrade works, and giving teachers ideas of projects or guidance on who can help them make their schools more sustainable.

The role combines a love of the environment with a desire to work in the field of education.

Qualifications

Degree level teaching and/or environmental qualification e.g. geography degree — experience in teaching or training

Good knowledge of environmental subject

Energy Officer

Also known as: Energy Adviser, Analyst, Consultant.

Other organisations you can work for: Energy consultancies, large businesses.

What do they do?

An Energy Officer will be responsible for promoting the culture of energy efficiency and carbon reduction within the Council

The council has a large number of buildings, and consumes large quantities of electricity for heating, lighting and for ICT. An Energy Officer manages the use of energy in the buildings through the intelligent collection and analysis of meter data. The role requires an element of training site managers in interpreting their own data so they can manage their building.

In addition, working up projects such as installation of insulation or solar photovoltaic (PV) panels is essential in reducing the buildings impact on the environment.

The council has a legal obligation to assess the energy efficiency of its buildings through building's Display Energy Certificates and an energy officer ensures these are met.

Qualifications

Degree/diploma/BTEC in an engineering, environmental science, or background in facilities/building management— apprenticeships, membership of an energy institute

Waste and Recycling officer

Also known as: Waste or Recycling Manager, Resource Efficiency Consultant

Other organisations you can work for: Waste management contractors, consultancies, large businesses.

What do they do?

The council's waste and recycling service provides weekly waste collections, fortnightly recycling collections and seasonal garden waste collections.

The waste and recycling officer oversees the day to day management of collections – for recycling, garden waste and refuse. They also look after the management of the HWRC (Household Waste Recycling Centre), ensuring correct disposal of the collected wastes and also actively promote waste minimisation and associated initiatives such as reuse.

Qualifications

The minimum requirement for an officer's role is:

4 GCSE's grades A-C including maths and English

2 years experience in the waste industry

Additional qualifications

- degree in a related field

Member of CIWM (Chartered Institute of Waste Management)

Sustainable Travel Officers

Also known as: Road Safety Officer

Other organisations you can work for: Councils, Consultancies, Large Businesses, Schools, Universities.

What do they do?

The aim of this role is to contribute to making the boroughs roads a safer place to walk, cycle, drive and get around by public transport.

Education is a key part of the role! Officers work with a wide range of people, including children but also adults.

Activities are varied, for instance work could include supporting young people on a 1 to 1 basis, or delivering road safety workshops. Clients could also include those with special needs where the objective is to enable them to learn the skills to travel safely and independently.

Other activities include on road cycle training i.e. Bikeability, and developing travel plans .

Clients such as business often need support developing travel plans; helping their employees find alternative methods other than the car.

This role also sets out to contribute to the larger aims of reducing traffic and air pollution, and encourage the use of more energy efficient and lower carbon methods of travel, so contributing to reducing the borough's impact on climate change, for the benefit of all road and pavement users.

Qualifications

GCSE's grades A-C including maths and English, volunteer/placement experience, apprenticeship, degree in geography or transport related.